

What is Claimed Is:

1. An airbag apparatus for a motorcycle including a handlebar, the airbag apparatus comprising:
 - an airbag including at least a portion thereof that is mounted to the handlebar;
 - a handlebar cover that extends over the handlebar and the airbag portion mounted thereto; and
 - a frangible portion of the handlebar cover at which the handlebar cover opens upon deployment of the airbag.
2. The airbag apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handlebar cover includes a cover body and the frangible portion comprises a thinned portion of the cover body which is torn open upon airbag deployment.
3. The airbag apparatus of claim 1 wherein the frangible portion comprises overlapping ends of material of the handlebar cover.
4. The airbag apparatus of claim 3 wherein the handlebar cover comprises a plurality of strips of the handlebar cover material with a plurality of pairs of material strips extending along the handlebar so that there are a plurality of the overlapping ends of cover material.
5. The airbag apparatus of claim 1 wherein the airbag includes another portion mounted to a location of the motorcycle other than at the handlebar.
6. The airbag apparatus of claim 1 wherein the airbag includes a retainer therefor.
7. The airbag apparatus of claim 6 wherein the airbag includes another portion mounted in the retainer and the handlebar mounted airbag portion is external of the retainer prior to airbag deployment.
8. The airbag apparatus of claim 1 wherein the airbag portion is folded and connected to the handlebar to extend therealong.

9. The airbag apparatus of claim 8 wherein the folded airbag portion extends between the handlebar and the frangible portion of the handlebar cover.
10. The airbag apparatus of claim 8 wherein the airbag portion has an accordion configuration as folded prior to deployment.
11. A motorcycle comprising:
 - a seat for a driver;
 - a handlebar forwardly of the seat;
 - a cover for the handlebar;
 - an airbag for being deployed forwardly of the seat; and
 - a predetermined portion of the cover that has a predetermined configuration prior to airbag deployment and shifts to a different configuration upon airbag deployment to allow the airbag to deploy and be inflated forwardly of the seat.
12. The motorcycle of claim 11 wherein the airbag includes a portion that is mounted between the handlebar and the cover.
13. The motorcycle of claim 12 wherein the airbag portion and the handlebar include fasteners therebetween for connecting the airbag portion to the handlebar.
14. The motorcycle of claim 11 wherein the airbag includes a retainer therefor generally mounted in an area lower than the handlebar.
15. The motorcycle of claim 14 wherein the airbag includes an upper portion mounted to the handlebar under the cover therefor external of the retainer, and a lower portion mounted in the retainer.
16. The motorcycle of claim 15 wherein the airbag upper portion is accordion folded and the airbag lower portion is roll folded prior to deployment.

17. The motorcycle of claim 15 wherein the airbag upper portion is folded to extend along the handlebar, and
a thin protective fabric for keeping the airbag upper portion folded until airbag deployment.
18. The motorcycle of claim 11 wherein the cover portion comprises a frangible portion so the cover opens at the frangible portion during airbag deployment.
19. The motorcycle of claim 18 wherein the frangible portion comprises one of a thinned material portion and overlapping material end portions.
20. The motorcycle of claim 18 wherein the frangible portion is configured to extend in one of a linear configuration, a dotted configuration, and a sheet configuration.